

Notice to Receive Comments

The Ozark-St. Francis National Forests are proposing to amend the 2005 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) following the direction in the 2012 Planning Rule (36CFR 219). The plan amendment proposes to correct an error in assigning management areas when the Forest Plan was revised in 2005. This error was discovered during environmental analysis for the Barber Ridge Project. We anticipate the need for a Forest Plan amendment to reassign approximately 5.75 acres to a more suitable management area: 1.G Special Interest Area Management Area. This legal notice serves as a 30-day public comment period to initiate scoping. The 2012 Planning Rule requires notification on which of the substantive rule requirements at 36CFR 219.8-219.11 are likely to be directly related to the plan direction being changed by the amendment. A specific substantive requirement is "directly related" to the amendment if the NEPA documentation reveals substantial adverse effects associated with the requirement; or the amendment would substantially lessen protections for a specific resource or use. For this plan amendment, the requirements relating to sustainability (36 CFR 219.8) and multiple use (36 CFR 219.10) are the rule requirements that are likely to be directly related to the change in plan direction. Additional information can be found on the project web site at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53159> or by contacting Amanda Bataineh at amanda.bataineh@usda.gov. HOW TO COMMENT: Comments on this project will be accepted at any time during the process. To establish standing for objection eligibility, this designated opportunity for comment is 30-days from the publication of the legal notice in the Forest newspaper of record, The Courier in Russellville, Arkansas. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner. This decision will be subject to the objection procedures identified in 36 CFR 219 Subpart B. For objection eligibility (36CFR 219.53), only those who have submitted timely, specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection. Issues to be raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment (36 CFR 218.53 (a)). Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on these pro-posed actions and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents or standing for administrative review. Responses may be submitted by mail to: Forest Supervisor, 605 West Main, Russellville AR 72801. Comments may also be mailed electronically to our office, in a common digital format, to comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis@fs.fed.us. Please state "Barber Ridge Project" in the subject line when providing electronic responses, or on the envelope when replying by mail.